

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Crosby, followed by Senators Wehrbein, Chambers and Witek.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Just two quick things. I have been listening to Senator Pedersen in particular with his statistics about how long people actually spend in jail. Many of them are out a lot sooner than we realize or think that they are, so that population keeps changing. But the thing that concerns me about this particular amendment, it's a matter of semantics when you read the line following...I'll read it to be sure I know, if any other program deemed necessary and appropriate by the department and approved by the Governor, and approved sounds like the Governor could bring in new programs to me. That's the implication there I think. As I said it's a matter of semantics. And people could come along when they're reading that statute and an unscrupulous Governor, should we say, and think up a whole bunch of programs and approve them and put them in out there. So I...for me that just isn't worded well. And I get really nervous when we just stick a line in, in a hurry. So for that reason I won't support the amendment. But I agree with Senator Pedersen, we do have a good correction system and a good staff and a good director. And I know he spends a lot of time out there and he knows what goes on. So, Senator Pedersen, if you'd like the rest of my time, you may have it. I'd like to hear some more about the good time. You may have the rest of my time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Pedersen, Senator Crosby has yielded whatever time you may need.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Those of you who have toured the prison, one of the areas I always ask that the prison take us to is what's called a control unit, sometime called the hole by prisoners or segregation, but segregation can be done in more places than just the control units. But the control unit, the separate building that's off in the southeast corner of NSP, the Nebraska State Pen, is a place where people are that have done some bad things within the institution, some real bad things sometimes, but not bad enough to be charged with breaking the law. Infractions of rules within the prison, and that could have been spitting in somebody's face, defecating in their hand and throwing it at you, attacking another prisoner, it could be lots of different things like that. I'm trying to be graphic with you because it can happen, and as you know that